Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 9, No. 38 | TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 20, 1944 | $2.00 Per Annum

# WPTB OKs '44-45 Groupings

## Seven Lists Approved By Croft, Administrator

Groupings for the 1944-45 releasing season have been approved for the Wartime Prices and Trade Board by J. R. Croft, Administrator of Services, the lists of seven companies having been submitted. Those of a number of others —among them United Artists, Universal, Twentieth Century-Fox and Republic— will follow shortly.

Paramount will release "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Sign of the Cross" and stipulations, explained below, have been arranged in the case of "Bell." Conditions were also stated for the sale by RKO of four productions from International Pictures, Inc.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Industry Ready For VII V Loan

Members of the Canadian motion picture industry are preparing for an intensive campaign in support of the Seventh Victory Loan drive, which will open on October 23. The objective, as announced by Finance Minister Ilsley, is $1,300,000,000, an in-

(Continued on Page 5)

## Maritimes Co-op Coming Along

What was established as a co-operative film, accessory and equipment venture on the part of four Maritimes exhibitors has broadened from distribution into exhibition. The original objective had been to interest Independent theatremen in the maritime prov-

(Continued on Page 10)

**HARRY PAINTER**

**Newly-elected president of the Toronto Film Board of Trade.**

### Projection Chief

Dave Seigel, veteran projectionist and president of Local 173, IATSE, has been appointed chief projectionist of Premier Operating circuit. He will continue his duties at the Casino, Toronto.

## Film Boards Meet Elect Officers

Harry Painter of Empire-Universals was elected president of the Toronto Film Board of Trade at its annual meeting last week. Painter, formerly vice-president, succeeded Joe Plottel of Warners, who served two terms.

Mark Plottel of RKO became

(Continued on Page 10)

## New York Story Is Mainly Bunk

The announcement that motion picture studios would be established in several buildings of the Canadian National Exhibition by the Hollywood Pictures Corporation of New York is without any verification whatever from those in Toronto who ought to know.

(Continued on Page 11)

# Get In On the Golf Tournament Now!

The golf tournament for the championship of the Canadian motion picture industry, to be held at the end of September, is well-organized now and those who would like to compete should fill in the entry form printed in this issue and return it to Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto. The tournament is being sponsored by this publication.

A meeting of the committee, of which Jack Arthur is the chairman, took place last week. Events and prizes were decided and work divided between the members. Canadian Film Weekly will present the prize for the low "net" and it is expected that the winning foursome will get the Nathanson Trophy, which hasn't

(Continued on Page 10)

### Roosevelt Asks for Roy Rogers Pic

**President Roosevelt, while at the Quebec conference with Prime Minister Churchill, requested to be shown Roy Rogers' latest, "San Fernando Valley," and Empire-Universal shipped a print of this Republic feature from its Montreal office. The President's preference for Westerns is well known.**

**It is presumed that Prime Minister Churchill saw it also.**

**Trade press editors, top executives and department heads of Twentieth Century-Fox attended a dinner for John Davis, joint managing director of Odeon Theatres, Ltd., London, on the occasion of his visiting the United States. Shown above are, left to right, Arthur W. Kelly; Maurice Leon, attorney for J. Arthur Rank; Dr. Alexander Galperson, representative of Two Cities Films; Barrington Gain, Mr. Rank's distribution representative; host Spyros Skouras; John Davis and Francis J. Harley, 20th's managing director in Great Britain.**

**THE CLIMAX** DRAMA — Strange and unforgetable! SPECTACLE — Awesome in its splendor! BEAUTY — The wonders of Technicolor! An EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL suspense classic starring Susanna Foster, Turhan Bey and Boris Karloff. BOOK IT NOW!

Film Weekly

Vol. 9, No. 38 Sept. 20, 1944

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.

Published by Film Publications of Canada Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter

Printed by Eveready Printers Limited, 75 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario

## *Saturday Night Once Over*

It has become obvious of late that there is more to the movie industry than the mere hawking of shadows for substance. The movie industry, which has the largest trade press with the possible exception of printing, is a mighty marketable literary commodity. A number of leading business papers in the United States and Canada have been analyzing the industry for their readers. Some presented unadorned and informative breakdowns, others ripped off our magnificent garments to reveal our silk but dirty underwear.

Last week a pulp-styled piece bearing the scarifying title, "World-Wide Movie War Is Moving in On Canada," appeared in Saturday Night. The introduction tells about Rank and says that "his chief partner is Spyros Skouras." That's interesting. The trade knows that Rank and Skouras have a joint production and distribution deal. Rank has a distribution deal with United Artists. Neither is anywhere near being the chief partner of J. Arthur Rank, who is tied up with any number of Britons and Americans financially.

But maybe Saturday Night, a political and business magazine, knows better.

The introduction, telling about the war between Rank and Hollywood, says that "The battle has already moved into Canada."

Has it? We've been sitting on a private war all the time and didn't know it! There must be a war. After all, Saturday Night, with the blessings of B. K. Sandwell, says there is and naturally stands on its reputation for accuracy.

Or maybe Saturday Night is just doing some prognosticating. It certainly can't be reporting.

## *Just So Much Nonsense*

There is, of course, the increasing competition between Canada's two largest theatre chains, Famous Players and Odeon Theatres, the first owned in the USA, the other here. Rank isn't connected with that battle, although there have been rumors that he would buy into Odeon in Canada. These rumors follow Rank in every country and they have been denied in Canada by Paul Nathanson, who runs Odeon and through Empire-Universal handles Rank-made films here.

The article credits Rank with landing "a beachhead in Canada" through the visit of John Davis, his theatre director. British representatives have come and gone often enough to cause no undue excitement. Something is made of the fact that Empire-Universal will distribute plenty of British films. The company has always handled a goodly number and the fact that fewer films are being made in Hollywood makes it possible to handle more now. After the war many more features will be required because of theatre expansion and Britain will provide her share.

In any case Paul Nathanson, described in the article as "a movie imperialist" and a possible ally of Rank, isn't likely to begin a war in his behalf in Canada. The Nathanson interests distribute the product of MGM, largest USA company, in the Dominion, as well as films from Republic and Universal. It is reliably reported that he has a partnership in the Poli circuit of the USA. How is that for Canadian movie imperialism reaching into the USA?

Which makes the Saturday Night sumup of the Canadian situation just so much nonsense.

# '44-45 Groupings Okayed By WPTB

(Continued from Page 1)

The approved groupings follow:

**Columbia**—2 Specials, 6 Group A, 8 Group B, 8 Group C, 12 Group D, 8 Group E, 10 Westerns, and 4 outdoor musicals on same terms as are applicable to Group C.

**Monogram** — 10 Specials, 12 Group A, 12 Group B, 12 Group C.

**Paramount** — 2 Specials, 6 Group A, 10 Group B, 10 Group C.

Paramount will sell "For Whom the Bell Tolls" as a Special at top terms established for Specials during the basic period. Exhibitors having basic contracts with Paramount will not be required to purchase "Bell" in order to obtain the Specials approved as part of the 1944-45 sales policy. Exhibitors who are entitled to purchase Specials may purchase "Bell" whether or not they elect to purchase any of the 1944-45 Specials.

"Sign of the Cross" will also be offered by Paramount as a Special.

**PRC**—6 Specials, 8 Group A, 6 Group B, 10 Group C, 16 Westerns, and 12 Sam Goldwyn reissues on an individual basis.

**Regal**—6 Group A, 10 Group B, 10 Group C, 12 Group D, and a balance group of any extra features.

**RKO**—4 Specials, 10 Group A, 8 Group B, 8 Group C, 10 Group D, 9 Group E.

RKO will offer four productions of International Pictures, Inc.—"Casanova Brown," "Belle of the Yukon," "The Woman in the Window," and "It's a Pleasure."

The above-named outside productions may be sold as Specials on individual contracts subject to the provisions of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board regulations and subject to the following conditions:

(A) That product of International Pictures, Inc., will be first offered to exhibitors holding basic contracts with RKO, and

(B) That the holders of such basic contracts may purchase any one or more of such pictures and shall not be required to purchase any specified number in order to obtain any of the product.

**Warner Bros.**—4 Specials, 4 Group A, 8 Group B, 3 Group C.

## *Joins Alliance*

**PAUL MAYNARD**

**Paul Maynard has formed an association with Ray Lewis of Alliance Films and will be Ontario representative of that exchange. He is well known in the industry.**

## Odeon To Windsor

Odeon Theatres of Canada will build a 1,200 seat theatre on Ottawa Street, Windsor, Ontario.

## *A Handsome Hunk of Imagery*

But before we drop the subject you might get a laugh out of the writer's words in explaining Spyros Skouras' background and how it contrasts with that of Rank, who went to Cambridge:

**"But Skouras' career is of the familiar rags to riches variety, which is dear to the heart of many Hollywood tycoons, who are often wont to reminisce glowingly on how they landed in America with two phennigs in their pocket and a caraway seed bun, but through diligence in the garment trade are now very, very rich Hollywood financiers and still possessing that beloved caraway seed bun."**

Come now, B.K., say Saturday Night is only joking! You don't honestly think that ex-ILGWU workers sewed up the movie industry on a Singer machine, do you? Some brought caraway seed buns, some fish and chips, some old school ties to the movie business. It's a safe bet that all have changed their diet and neckwear a long time ago. The cloak-and-suiter type of humor is old stuff and juvenile when directed at one of the continent's greatest industries. It certainly doesn't belong in Saturday Night.

Maybe it's all in fun at that.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE OF THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 9, No. 38 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

# Address Unknown

with Paul Lukas, Carl Esmond, Peter Van Eyck, Mady Christians, Morris Carnovsky, K. T. Stevens

Columbia 72 Mins.

GRIPPING DRAMA WHOSE TIMELY STORY, STAR AND DIRECTION MAKE IT A SURELY RUGGED GROSSER.

The boxoffice name of Paul Lukas has been recently enhanced via award to him of the coveted Oscar for the best male performance of 1943 by the Academy. Either purposely or coincidentally, Columbia has capitalized upon this fact. In either event, it is the exhibitor who benefits.

**Lukas gives a resounding performance as the German-American who goes to Munich during the revolutionary rise of Hitler to power, joins the National Socialist cult, and betrays the daughter of his business partner in San Francisco. For the sake of personal safety, expediency, and political credo, he virtually witnesses her being shot to death at the hands of fanatical Nazi hordes who have tracked her down because of her race.**

In addition to the asset of Lukas' presence in the cast, the film may well prove a histrionic milestone since it introduces one of the "best bets" for full-fledged stardom in Hollywood,—the capable K. T. Stevens. The tragedy of her demise at the hands of the Nazis, and the vengeance initiated and culminated from afar by her former sweetheart, Peter Van Eyck, is the stuff real drama is made of.

Van Eyck, knowing the power of sown suspicion among villains, keeps writing to his father, Lukas, from San Francisco. The letters appear to be in code, and it is not long before the political horror which Lukas embraced turns to embrace him. The scenes of his terror and final execution are played to the hilt, displaying the enormous capabilities of this ace actor. Those sequences in which K. T. Stevens is given acting prominence are taken full advantage of by her.

William Cameron Menzies both produced and directed this feature,—and brilliantly.

CAST: Paul Lukas, Carl Esmond, Peter Van Eyck, Mady Christians, Morris Carnovsky, K. T. Stevens, Emory Parnell, Mary Young, Frank Faylen, Charles Halton, Erwin Kalser, Frank Reicher, Dale Cornell, Peter Newmeyer, Larry Joe Olsen, Gary Gray.

DIRECTION, Top-Flight, PHOTOGRAPHY, Aces.

# The Adventures Of Mark Twain

with Fredric March, Alexis Smith

Warner 130 Mins.

BIOGRAPHICAL ENTERTAINMENT IN BEST WARNER MANNER SHOULD CLICK HEAVILY AT THE B. O.

In making "The Adventures of Mark Twain" Warners has brought to bear all its vast experience as a producer of film biography in the grand manner—which means that the production under scrutiny is an ambitious affair with all the factors necessary for resounding boxoffice success. As written, directed and performed the screen version of the life of the great humorist emerges as a warm, human and at times exciting film, colorfully and lavishly turned out with a wealth of detail and a vivid sense of reality. Every attempt has been made to give the picture popular appeal and high standing as a piece of Americana.

Although the film at times tends to be slow and heavy, it is packed with extremely interesting material and holds the attention surprisingly well, resorting freely to laughter and drama in telling the tale of Twain, the man and the author.

**The film peopled with all the motley characters of his time, takes Twain from his birth in 1835 to his death in 1910 in an episodic screenplay that omits none of the incidents by which the famous author is best remembered in the public mind, many of them being faithfully and graphically re-enacted for the camera. All the joys and disappointments of Twain's life are pictured effectively with the help of a large cast of first-rate players. Much is made throughout the picture of the hold the Mississippi River had on the impressionable and imaginative mind of Twain.**

The picture, made about a year and a half ago, its release having been delayed to permit Warner Bros. to unload product of more timely import, was given an ace production by Jesse L. Lasky, Irving Rapper contributing direction of the first order. The screenplay of Alan LeMay was expertly conceived from an adaptation by Harold M. Sherman and himself. The biographical material is based on a play by Sherman and on Twain works owned or controlled by the Mark Twain Co.

Fredric March, made up to look amazingly like Twain, plays the leading role with distinction. Alexis Smith is excellent as his wife. Donald Crisp, Alan Hale, C. Aubrey Smith, John Carradine, William Henry, Robert Barrat, Walter Hampden are just a few members of the tremendous cast who acquit themselves meritoriously.

CAST: Fredric March, Alexis Smith, Donald Crisp, Alan Hale, C. Aubrey Smith, John Carradine, William Henry, Robert Barrat, Walter Hampden, Joyce Reynolds, Whitford Kane, Percy Kilbride, Nana Bryant, Dennis Donnelly, Hopper Atchley, George Reed, Sam McDaniel, Dudley Dickerson, Betty Roadman, Viola Callahan, Frank Wilcox, Libby Taylor, Lillian Randolph, Mildred Gover, Dickie Jones, Kay Johnson, Jackie Brown, Eugene Holland, Michael Miller, Frederick Spencer.

DIRECTION, First-rate. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

## Bowmanville Change

Thomas Burrows has taken over the management of the Royal Theatre, Bowmanville, Ontario, succeeding Reg. Wilson.

# Storm Over Lisbon

with Vera Hruba Ralston, Richard Arlen

Republic 86 Mins.

STORY OF INTRIGUE LIKELY TO PLEASE THE OUT-AND-OUT MELODRAMA FANS.

For Vera Hruba Ralston's second venture in dramatics Republic has selected a heavy tale of intrigue pretty familiar by now. Only those who have a warm spot in their hearts for melodrama of the type represented by this production will react favorably.

**The action takes place amid settings that are a definite asset to the production. Miss Ralston is an Allied operative in Lisbon who helps Richard Arlen, an American newspaper man, get out of Portugal with an important bit of information.**

The cast offers some first-rate names.

CAST: Vera Hruba Ralston, Richard Arlen, Erich von Stroheim, Otto Kruger, Eduardo Ciannelli, Robert Livingston, Mona Barrie, Frank Orth, Sarah Edwards, Alice Fleming, Leon Belasco, Kenne Duncan, Aida Broadbent Girls.

DIRECTION, Adequate. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

## Columbia's 'The Impatient Years' Offers Drama and Laughs

A STORY of wartime marriage, "The Impatient Years" will have great appeal, for it deals with a common problem—that of the soldier who leaves right after the wedding. Columbia, however, has guaranteed its attraction power by inserting a considerable amount of comedy deftly handled by such experts as Charles Coburn and Jean Arthur.

Lee Bowman is the soldier who marries Jean Arthur after a whirlwind courtship and then leaves for overseas. They decide to divorce on his return but Charles Coburn, Miss Arthur's father, asks that it be set aside so that that couple can relive their four days of courtship. Of course, they recapture that first careless rapture — and provide much romance and comedy while seeking it.

Edgar Buchanan, Charley Grapewin, Harry Davenport, Grant Mitchell, Jane Darwell and Frank Jenks are part of a great supporting cast.

# Industry Ready For VII V Loan

(Continued from Page 1)

crease of $100 million over the quota of the Sixth Victory Loan.

Chief feature of the industry's effort will be a one-reel short being produced by MGM entitled "Tomorrow John Jones." Some 300 prints will be needed for concentrated distribution.

The short was decided on at a meeting of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee at which representatives of the National War Finance Committee were present. This meeting was held some months ago and it was decided then that, because of the immense success of "The Shining Future," Warner-made short for the Sixth Loan, the same idea should be continued.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, national chairman of the industry's War Services Committee, got in touch with Francis Harmon of the Hollywood War Activities Committee, who took the matter up with executives of Twentieth Century-Fox and MGM. MGM, approached first through Nicholas M. Schenck and E. J. Mannix, agreed immediately. Tom Connors of Fox expressed the willingness of his company to have undertaken the effort, and J. J. Fitzgibbons, in thanking him, said that Fox might be approached at some future time if necessary.

In his announcement Mr. Ilsley said the borrowing requirements for the current fiscal year still stood at the $3,200,000,000 figure estimated in his Budget speech of June 26. Provision had been made in the Budget for uncertainties, and it appeared likely that an increase of $500 million might have to be made in estimates of war expenditures.

Individual subscriptions have an objective of $600 million in the October campaign, a $75 million increase over objective in the sixth loan.

Mr. Ilsley drew attention to the increased objective for individual purchases of loans.

"This marks the continuing great importance which is attached to the participation of every individual Canadian who is in a position to buy bonds," he said.

## Republic Adds Four To 1944-45 Sked

Republic will release 36 dramas for the 1944-45 schedule instead of 32 as previously announced, bringing the total number of releases up to 68. In addition to the dramas the schedule still lists the eight Roy Rogers, eight Bill Elliots, eight action and eight star Westerns previously announced.

## Vital Statistics

**Isadore Shapiro, Columbia booker, was married to Mannette Davidson last week . . . Murray Sweigman of Inter-Theatres has become engaged . . . Charlie Bahrynowski, manager of the Metropolitan, Winnipeg, now has a recently-born son to manage him . . . Irving Seigel, projectionist at the Ace, is now the father of a daughter, thus shoving Dave Seigel, prexy of Local 173, IATSE, into the ranks of the grandpappies . . . Syd Samson, Canadian Fox chief, is another first-time grandfather, his daughter having presented the clan with a girl . . . While on the subject of the younger generation, let's not overlook Honey Lee King, daughter of Harold, King of the Park, Chatham. She's the purtiest and pertest hunk of kid in Kent County . . . Stopped in to see Harland Rankin at Chatham, visited his lovely home, listened to ambitious theatre plans and was ringed with a Rankin tie—a form of hospitality inflicted on all visitors. . . Went with Harold King to St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham, to visit his sick janitor and learned that there is a patient who hasn't been out of the place in 32 years. She was hurt in a railroad accident that long ago . . . A sailor put one over on the cashier of the Garrick, Halifax. He offered a ten dollar bill and got change for it. It was discovered that he had split a ten dollar bill lengthwise and pasted it on a one dollar bill treated in the same way. Which means that someone else has been or will be stuck.**

* * *

## Goldhar — Target For Tonight

The guy with the horns and cloven hooves seems to be hounding Harry Goldhar.

During a recent storm lightning struck the Kent Theatre and damaged electrical equipment. The patrons were sent home. Then a reel of "Phantom of the Opera" caught fire at the Kent Theatre and that performance had to be cancelled. That feature, incidentally, seems to be jinxed somewhat, the same thing having happened to it in British Columbia recently.

But Harry's funniest accident took place at the baseball stadium, where he is practically a resident, and provided laughs for those around him.

You've heard that "I'm glad that elephants can't fly" crack. It actually happened to Harry. There were about 8,000 persons in the ball park that afternoon and a mighty healthy pigeon picked him out as the target for some precision bombing, dropping a fist-sized splatter on him from 500 feet. The RCAF could use that pigeon.

"If the Leaf pitchers had that kind of control," says Harry, "we would have won the pennant a long time ago."

* * *

## Heard and Overheard

**A fellow got a job as a window dresser in a ladies wear store, tells Roy Castleman, and quit after four days. He was asked why. "I found out," he answered sorrowfully, "that those girls weren't real." . . . A disgusted racing fan whose horse lagged was heard to exclaim, "That horse could run under the apple tree all day and never get out of the shade!" . . . Even the gaming houses are doing so much business that the croupiers try to get the players to stand sideways and make room for more at the tables. "Stand up like soldiers, folks," one advised. "You only need one eye and one arm to play this game!" . . . A favorite story just now is about the time Mischa Elman passed a street fiddler who played terribly. But when he was finished the residents threw silver and bills at him. Elman came by the next day and saw the same thing. The third day Elman got there first, played the best he knew how but didn't draw a nickel. But when the street fiddler took his place and made those terrible sounds the money came down again. Elman introduced himself, pointed out the difference in their playing and asked the street fiddler why he was so successful. "I'm not a violinist," was the answer. "I'm a bookie." . . . You're getting fat when you push stuck doors with your stomach, kick the bottom drawer in instead of pushing it and have others pick up things for you.**

Producers Releasing Corporation Limited
P.R.C.
H. J. ALLEN, President

PRC DELIVERS

Benny Fields
in
MINSTREL MAN

DELINQUENT DAUGHTERS
June Carlson
Fifi D'orsay

LADY IN THE DEATH HOUSE
Lionel Atwill
Jean Parker

WATER FRONT
John Carradine
J. Carrol Naish

SEVEN DOORS TO DEATH
Chick Chandler
June Clyde

CONTENDER
Buster Crabbe
Arline Judge

MACHINE GUN MAMA
Armida
El Brendell

You Can Rely On
PRC

Producers Releasing Corporation
LIMITED
Executive Offices:
277 Victoria St., Toronto, 2, Ont.

NOW PLAYING

SHE'S THE GLEAM IN THE EYE OF EVERY G.I.

# JANIE

JOYCE REYNOLDS · ROBERT HUTTON · EDWARD ARNOLD · ANN HARDING · ROBERT BENCHLEY · ALAN HALE

Where they play Warners

"THE PLAY'S THE THING", echoes Ernie Rawley, Manager

where . . . **"JANIE"** was the first stage attraction to stay **FIVE WEEKS ! !**

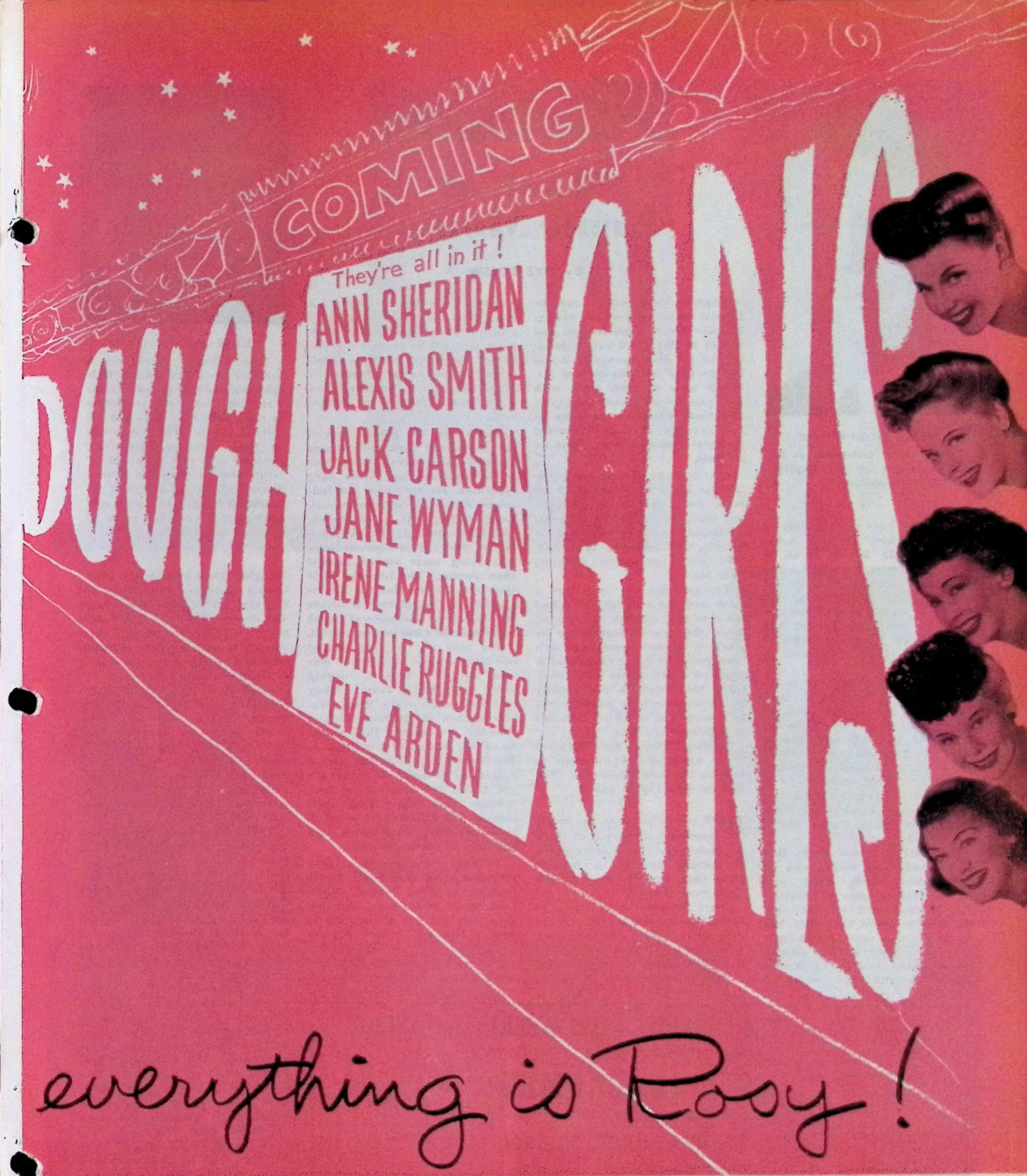
. . . TERRIFIC ON THE STAGE ! !

Directed by
MICHAEL CURTIZ

Screen Play by Agnes Christine Johnston & Charles Hoffman
From the Play Produced by Brock Pemberton

Produced by
ALEX GOTTLIEB

**Jack L. Warner**
*Executive Producer*




**of the Royal Alexandra, Toronto** (Canada's ace legit house)

where . . . **"DOUGHGIRLS"** road show success demanded repeat in summer stock ! !

**. . . PHENOMENAL ON THE SCREEN ! !**

Directed by
JAMES V. KERN

with JOHN RIDGELY · JOHN ALEXANDER · CRAIG STEVENS · BARBARA BROWN · ALAN MOWBRAY · Screen Play by James V. Kern and Sam Hellman · Additional Dialogue by Wilkie Mahoney · From the Stage Play by Joseph A. Fields · Produced by Max Gordon

Produced by
MARK HELLINGER

# Flashbacks

# Musical Ernie Moule

By HYE BOSSIN

ERNIE MOULE NOW

**Yesterday's troubador is today manager of the Capitol, Brantford, Ontario.**

ADD to your trade gallery of Brantford, Ontario, notables Mr. Ernest Moule, a gentleman, a showman and a baritone. You might write his name on the record, hang his picture or have a bust of him but you will not have caught the most famed characteristic of Ernie. For that you'd need a sound track.

While the years have no doubt rusted Ernie's vocal pipes, they were once his chief claim to fame. Once upon a long time the genial Mr. Moule brought golden tones out of those pipes in such appealing fashion as to win the affection of the multitude — or that part of it which inhabited any number of hamlets and communities in central United States and Canada.

**And that's why the Allens, Ben Cronk and Clair Hague can go hang their heads. They also served their cinema apprenticeship in Brantford, but they are the first to admit that they had no vocal class, even though their songs were illustrated. Of course, there is the matter of Archie Mason, currently the mayor of Springhill, Nova Scotia, and the Liberal nominee for his riding. He, like Moule, took lessons and served in Brantford before heading for the Maritimes. We would like to hear Mr. Mason and Mr. Moule have at each other with the scale for the championship of Brantford Pioneers. In spite of the ravages of time it would probably sound no worse than an air raid.**

It's now 34 years since the popular Ernie Moule shook off his home town of London, Ontario, and endowed Brantford with his continuing presence—and has, in return, been endowed by Brantford with unmodified affection ever since.

You see, Ernie is by nature a giver and not a taker. He's had his nose in community causes all down the years. Sometimes he stuck it in and sometimes he's been pulled in by it. He's had it tweaked a few times too, something that happens occasionally to all well-meaning persons, but he's never cut it off to spite his or anyone else's face.

Politics? Nope. He's satisfied to go along uncharted paths to express his civic conscience. Not that he hasn't been asked.

HOW did he get into the movie business? Believe it or leave it—because he was a crackerjack at ten-pin bowling, a popular game then. But let's start farther back than that.

When he got out of school in London he stayed in that city for nine years with a coal company. Not satisfied with warming the folks physically, he took singing lessons in the hopes of spreading spiritual warmth, winning a reputation and making good money. Vocal boy finally made good. In 1905 he became a member of the Imperial Male Quartette, assisted on the program by Mana Gaylord Beckworth, an elocutionist. They were booked solid.

**Those were the golden days of the unadorned arrangement and the unassisted voice. There were no microphones and folks sang right out. Barber shops and barrooms resounded with men perilously riding the tonal rapids. Quartette singing, though popular in frowned-on surroundings, was being more sinned against than sinning. The Imperial Male Quartette helped claim it for respectability by offering it before the semi-pious audiences of parish halls and the Chautauqua circuit.**

The boys and the lady played one-night stands and there was none of your modern moving about in the lap of luxury. They travelled what were great distances then in horse-and-wagon vehicles in weather that would make the statue of Sir John A. MacDonald step down and seek a hospitable fireside. They always got there, fair weather or foul, because they knew that their coming was a looked-for event in those pre-movie days and a dark hall meant disappointment.

To keep one engagement they travelled from Botteneau, North Dakota, to Pilot Mound, Manitoba, in 36 below zero. Another time they got out of their rig to fight a Nebraska prairie fire for five hours.

**There were other hardships too, among them a severe personal drought. Their church and Chautauqua patrons disapproved of the cup that cheers and cheers and cheers. The boys didn't dare be caught moistening their throats in local taverns. Cleanliness had to share its place next to Godliness with abstinence.**

ERNIE MOULE (1905)

**Ernie Moule (right) as a member of the Imperial Male Quartette, which was a popular Canadian and USA attraction in those dear dead days not yet beyond recall. "The solo work of Messrs. Parker, Moule and Webster was of a high order," wrote the Garrettsville (Ohio) Press, "all having voices of remarkable range and purity, and indicating a careful degree of training and culture."**

Some time in 1908 Ernie returned to London to hammer the wooden bottles and to make music locally for a while. But there was something else on his mind. He and his singing partners had seen moving pictures growing in popularity in the cities but flickers in small places were rare.

That, said Ernie to himself and the others, was the game of the future.

IN LONDON in those days there was a swell guy named Bill Karry, now gone, who operated the National Bowling Alleys and some shoeshine parlors. Ernie bowled on his championship team. Karry, an enterprising individual, had also eyed the movie field and was about to build the Lyric, a 180-seater. The Wonderland, owned by Ben Cronk's father, was the only movie house in Brantford at the time. Karry picked Ernie to manage because the latter was in show business.

**In January, 1909, the Lyric opened with a continuous show. Admission was five cents and each program took from 12 to 15 minutes, with an illustrated song by Ernie breaking up the two reels. The Lyric closed in 1914. Accompanying Ernie at the piano was his wife, Adelene, who was in charge of the musical parts of those shows ruled over by Ernie until sound pictures chased live musicians out of the theatres.**

(Continued on Page 16)


"INCLUDE ME IN"

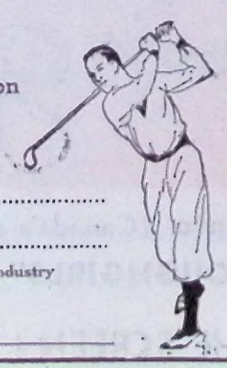
I AM ENCLOSING CHECK FOR $4.00 IN PAYMENT OF GREEN FEES, DINNER, ETC.

Please make Checks payable to:
Tom Daley, Sec.-Treas.
Imperial Theatre
Yonge Street, Toronto

IMPORTANT
PLEASE FILL IN YOUR LAST THREE SCORES OR CLUB HANDICAP.

LAST 3 SCORES ☐ ☐ ☐ CLUB HANDICAP ☐ NAME OF CLUB _____

The CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY 1st ANNUAL
CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE CHAMPIONSHIP
GOLF TOURNAMENT
OAKDALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, Weston
FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 1944



Name.....
Address.....Phone.....
Entrant Must Be Actively Engaged in Motion Picture Industry

## Paramount Reissues DeMille's Classic, 'Sign of the Cross'

ONE of the most famed classics in film history is "Sign of the Cross," which has been modernized by Paramount and reissued to meet the great demand for films with a religious theme.

"Sign of the Cross" rates high among the historic grossers and its stars are bigger today than they were then. Fredric March, Charles Laughton, Claudette Colbert and Elissa Landi star in it, while Nat Pendleton is one of the supporting players.

It is a lavish spectacle that has lost nothing and gained much since it was first issued in 1932.

A prologue has been added. It shows a bomber flying over Rome. In it are two chaplains, a Catholic and a Protestant. They observe smoke from the city and this leads to the story of the burning of Rome.

# Enter Film Golf Tourney Now

(Continued from Page 1)

been competed for in some years.

There will be team and individual play. The events are: Team Play — winning foursome and runner-up; Individual Play—Low Net, first runner-up, second runner-up; Low Gross — first runner-up, second runner-up; Low Net, exhibitor; Low Gross, exhibitor; Most Birdies; Best-Dressed Golfer.

Entry fee will be four dollars to golfers and the price to non-golfers who wish to attend the dinner and entertainment will be $2.50. An entry form will be found on page 8.

Much interest has already been shown and it is expected that there will be a large turnout. A dinner and entertainment will follow.

The committee is comprised of Jack Arthur, Famous Players, chairman; Tom Daley, Imperial Theatre, secretary-treasurer; Ralph Dale, Odeon; Archie Laurie, Empire-Universal; Martin Bloom, Premier Operating; Sam Fine, B & F Theatres; Raoul Auerbach, Twentieth Century Theatres; Harry Lester, Bonita Theatre and Jack Hunter, Paramount. The committee is made up of distributors, circuit and Independent representatives.

Get in on the fun. Enter now.

## Montreal Rodeo to Star Roy Rogers

Roy Rogers, Republic's cowboy king, is scheduled to appear at the Forum in Montreal from September 14 through the 21. Republic's Montreal branch has set a special campaign to help exhibitors to cash in on the tour.

# Film Boards Meet Elect Officers

(Continued from Page 1)

vice-president and Dorothy Wilson of Regal, honorary secretary. Harold Kay of Monogram is Fire Marshal and Ed Wells of the Canadian Motion Picture Producers and Distributors is secretary.

Harry J. Bailey of Twentieth Century-Fox heads the arbitration and credit committee, the additional members of which are Harry Kohen of United Artists and Mark Plottel.

In Calgary E. Dodderidge of RKO was elected president of the local Film Board of Trade and William Guss of Regal vice-president. J. Reid is the honorary secretary and G. Lynch Fire Marshal.

Elections will soon be held in each distribution territory.

# Flashbacks

(Continued from Page 8)

**The Lyric Theatre, Brantford, Ontario, in 1909. Manager Ernie Moule is second from the left and Joe Belinsky, now manager of the Imperial, Sarnia, Ontario, is shown second from the right. The standee on which Moule is leaning advertises "Latest Songs by Ernie Moule."**

When Karry built the Appolo, which opened in October, 1910, it was also placed under Moule's management. The Appolo had 368 seats and charged ten cents. It featured seven shows daily of vaudeville and pictures, with illustrated songs as part of the program. It closed in 1916.

Bill Karry found that bowling alleys and shoeshine parlors were all he could handle and Ernie bought both theatres in 1911.

In 1914 Brantford business men opened the city's first de luxe house, the Brant, which had 1107 seats and featured four shows daily of vaudeville and pictures for 35 cents. Ernie accepted the offer to manage it for them and closed the Lyric. By 1915 the Brant was in financial trouble. It was a case of take over or close up and Ernie took over.

In 1917 Moule remodelled the old Colonial Theatre, which had been an open air house, and changed the name to Rex. It had 850 seats and charged 25 cents for movies, vaudeville or stock. It was closed and dismantled in 1922.

**Then, in 1919, the Capitol was opened at a cost of $387,000 by the Brant Amusement Company, formed by Moule. This house, with 1618 seats, presented vaudeville from Keith and first-run films. The leading stage shows, among them Blossom Time, The Student Prince and My Maryland, played there. The first attraction on December 22 was a Mary Pickford film. There was a staff of 42, one of which was a page boy. That was really putting it on in those days.**

In 1921 the Paramount Brantford Theatres was organized and took operating control, in 1929 buying control of the company. It's now a Famous Players house. Ernie was there as manager when it opened in 1919 as the Temple and he's still there, though it became the Capitol since. He is the managing director of the Paramount Brantford Theatres.

MOST of the fun, Ernie says, was in those early days when he had to do his share of everything from ushering to caretaking—with an odd shot at projecting. He came into his own when he got up there to accompany the slides with his voice.

**"I remember singing 23 shows in one day," he said, reaching for his throat.**

The urge to sing was always strong in him. For years he led the Rotarians at their meetings.

**In 1912 he first met the singing team of Walter and June Kennedy. They played his theatre and have been firm friends ever since. Whenever he encounters Walter they automatically break into harmony.**

Harmony in all things comes easy for a fellow who likes people as much as Ernie Moule.

# Maritimes Co-op Coming Along

(Continued from Page 1)

inces in a plan for cheaper rentals and faster bookings.

A. J. Mason, Springhill Capitol; A. A. Fielding, Bridgwater and Digby Capitols; M. E. Walker, Halifax Gaiety and Sackville Imperial; F. Sobey, Westville-Stellarton Roxy and Jubilee, were the organizers of this cooperative move, with Mason as president and Fielding as manager. Not only has this quartet worked together on supplies for their own theatres but they have penetrated the theatre operating field as partners.

The first step was to take over the Star at Whitney Pier, Nova Scotia, situated at Sydney.

Now the Indie four, under the title of Affiliated Theatres, are reported planning a theatre building for New Waterford, N.S.; one for Sackville, N.B.; one for Glasgow, N.S., with the possibility of opening in Charlottetown, P.E.I., Amherst, N.S., Fredericton, N.B. At New Waterford, F. M. Gregor is veteran owner-manager of the Majestic. He, too, has been mulling over plans for a new theatre.

The base for cooperative film distribution is St. John with Fielding in charge. For thirty years he was with F. G. Spencer until the two parted several years ago. At that time, Fielding was general manager of the Spencer circuit. His present office is diagonally opposite the Spencer offices where he spent so many years.

The cooperative film plan is understood not to have won the cooperation of the Independents to the extent hoped for by its promoters. The greatest progress to date has been made in the exhibition field.

## Orpheus, Halifax To Be Enlarged

Orpheus, Halifax, Nova Scotia, a Famous Players unit now seating 874, will be enlarged after the war to hold 1,200 persons. It will be converted to stadium style.

New features will include tilt-back seats which will enable entrance and exit along the rows without those seated having to rise, indirect electronic-controlled lighting and provision for television.

# Nice Gesture By Paramount News

In keeping with its policy of serving the Canadian people, Canadian Paramount News is going one step further and offering to the public what will be a very welcome service—pictures of their loved ones whom they spot in the newsreel.

The procedure is set up as follows:

1. A person should see the Paramount News twice so they can identify carefully the scene in which their loved one appears. They should observe in what part of the story it comes and what precedes and follows it.

2. Then they should ask the manager of the theatre what the number of that particular issue is. The number is very important.

3. They should telephone or write to Canadian Paramount News (Offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, and St. John) telling their relationship to the party concerned, and describing in detail the scene in which he appears.

4. Finally, when the news has finished its run, they will be given a negative, which might look extremely tiny, but they can have any photographer blow it up as big as required.

The sound level of Paramount Canadian News has been lowered so that it matches the level at which all Paramount features are recorded in Hollywood. This is a welcome change.

## Dolbeau, PQ, House Damaged By Fire

Fire seriously damaged the Imperial Theatre, Dolbeau, Quebec, when the building in which it was housed broke into flame and was gutted. A 315-seater operating two days each week, it was operated by J. C. Chabot. Policy was split between English and French films.

## Empire, Timmins, Ont Will Be Reopened

Empire Theatre, Timmins, Ontario, a Famous Players house seating 590, is being remodelled. For the last two years it has been used as an office by a USA concern.

*In Hollywood*

**Lou McKenzie of Warners, St. John, N.B. (right) is shown occupying the attention of Lynne Baggett, pretty star of "Pillar to Post," while Joe Plottel (left), Warners Toronto branch manager, tries to cut in.**

## Frigon Appointed New CBC Head

Appointment of Dr. Augustine Frigon as general manager of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was announced last week by War Services Minister LaFleche.

Dr. Frigon, a Montreal engineer, joined the CBC as assistant general manager when it was formed in 1936. Since November he has been acting general manager. He is 56 years of age.

## Plaza, Tilbury, Ont. Runs Beauty Contest

A beauty contest in which Mary Anne Watson became Miss Western Ontario was run by Vannie Chauvan, manager of the Plaza, Tilbury. Finalists competed at the annual Field day of Windsor firemen. The house was clogged every night.

## Shafer to Medicine Hat for Famous

G. I. Shafer, assistant manager at the Lyceum Theatre, Port Arthur, Ontario, recently went to Alberta to take over the management of Medicine Hat theatres for Famous Players. His position has been filled by Mrs. Vera Samec, assistant manager at the Colonial, Port Arthur.

# New York Story Is Mainly Bunk

(Continued from Page 1)

Issued from New York by Ed Hurley, public relations man, the news release claimed that (1) production on "Sick Heart River," written by the late John Buchan, who as Lord Tweedsmuir was Governor-General of Canada, would begin at CNE studios within a month; (2) and that a deal for the distribution of the company's Canadian-made product in Britain was pending with J. Arthur Rank.

It was also stated that James Cowan, director of Editorial Services, Ltd., would head Trans-Canada Pictures, Ltd., "directive force over production and distribution" in Canada. Cowan has been Canadian representative for some years of The Archers, a British studio, and his organization has been responsible for the exploitation of a number of films, among them the very successful "49th Parallel."

At his Toronto offices Cowan, when queried on the New York announcement, said that it had little basis in fact. Trans-Canada, just being formed, will hold the screen rights to a number of stories being prepared by a group of five or six men, each of whom had considerable motion picture experience. The group, most of whom are in the armed services, wants to undertake film production and prefers to work in Canada.

Jack Goldberg, Independent producer, who heads Hollywood Pictures Corporation, may finance the activities of the group but nothing has happened so far to warrant a production announcement. He was reported to have had a partnership in a Toronto theatre some years ago.

## Coe for Montreal

Charles Francis Coe is slated to speak at the annual Quebec Allied meeting Sept. 20 in the Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal.

## Cashier Promoted

Formerly cashier at the Odeon Theatre, New Westminster, B.C., Helen Bettles was recently named assistant to Les. Young, manager. Young is also supervisor for the Odeon chain in New Westminster.

## Harry Punter, Show Veteran, Passes

Harry Punter, stage manager of the Capitol Theatre, Brantford, Ontario, passed away recently after an illness of several weeks. Since the building of the Brant Theatre, Brantford, in 1913 he has been associated with Ernie Moule. They were together at the Capitol, then the Temple, in 1919.

"TEST FILM. 10,000 cycles 35 mm., with easy instructions, so that you can focus your Sound Lens in absolute precision and secure clear sound and the Maximum from your sound System. Just what many theatre owners have longed for! Bargain $6.60."

SAVE 20% OR MORE OF YOUR MONEY
on THE BEST IN SOUND, PROJECTORS AND COMPLETE THEATRE SUPPLIES
SPECIALISTS FOR 25 YEARS
ASK THE MAN WHO KNOWS US
DOMINION THEATRE EQUIPMENT CO
849 DAVIE ST VANCOUVER B.C.

MONOGRAM PICTURES OF CANADA LTD.
277 Victoria Street, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Exhibitor:

Do nothin' till you hear from Monogram!

Our 1944-45 schedule is a knockout--it will include

10 SPECIALS

24 PROGRAM PICTURES

12 WESTERNS

And all built for entertainment and box-office.

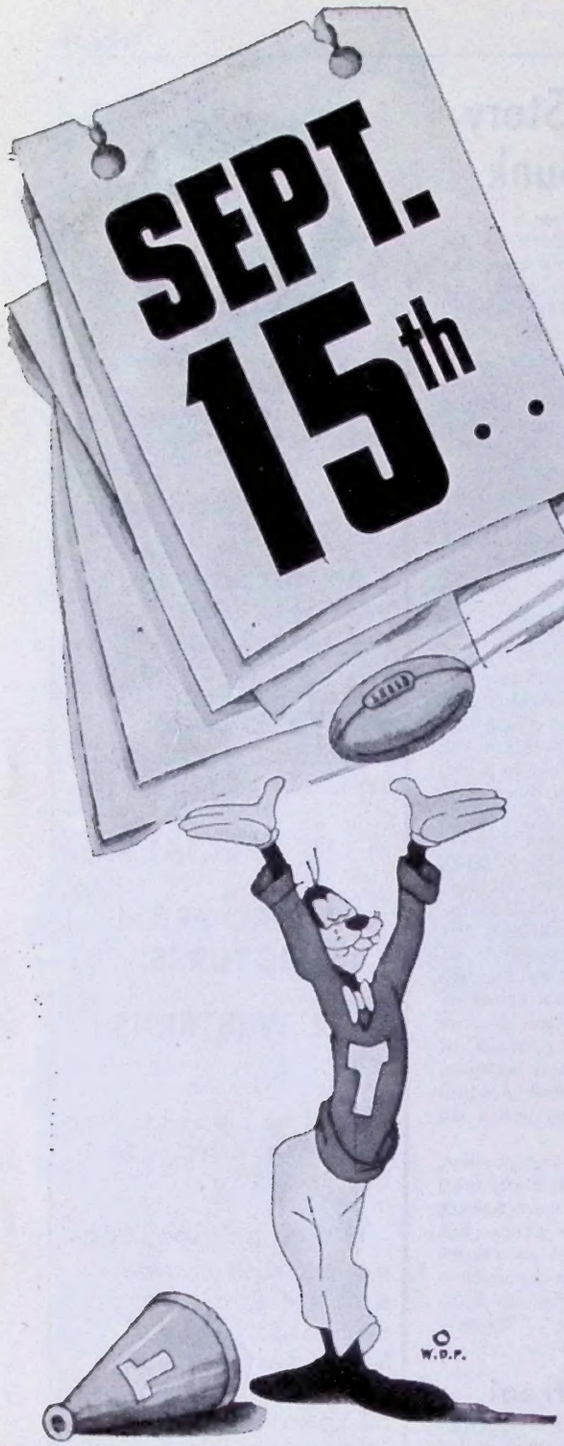
It's acknowledged in the trade and we don't mind repeating that Monogram is the fastest-growing company in the industry

Be sure to reserve room for Monogram pictures in your Line-up for the coming year.

Cordially yours,

MONOGRAM PICTURES

Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver.




. . . THAT'S WHEN

# 216

*of the Nation's Ace Theatres will show*

## WALT DISNEY'S

# "HOW TO PLAY FOOTBALL"

*Starring* **GOOFY**

**A One Reel Subject in Technicolor**

A new day-and-date record for one-reel bookings . . . with Radio City Music Hall heading the list of 216 de luxers playing this new Walt Disney laugh riot!

A WALT DISNEY Production

Distributed by RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.